

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraphs by replacing them with the original paragraphs, as originally filed, as indicated below.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 13, starting at line 15, with the following replacement paragraph:

Next at step 312, a further analysis is performed on the remaining candidate links. This analysis involves examining the candidate links to identify links that are "contested." A contested link is one that is connected to the same port as another candidate link as illustrated, e.g., in ~~FIGURE 7~~ FIGURE 8. The figures shows three switches S4, S5, and S6. Switch S4 contains port P2. Switch S5 contains port P4. Switch S6 contains ports P1 and P4. Switches S4 and S6 are connected by a candidate link L1, and switches S4 and S5 are connected by a candidate link L2. Also, switches S5 and S6 are connected by candidate link L3. With this arrangement, links L1 and L2 are vying for the same port P2 of switch S4, and links L2 and L3 are vying for the same port P4 of switch S5. Links L1, L2 and L3 are thereby each contested links. Links L1 and L3 are 'singly' contested since the are each vying with only one other link for a port. Link L2 is 'doubly' contested since it is vying with other links at both of its ports.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 14, starting at line 9, with the following replacement paragraph:

Contested links are not possible in network topology since branching cannot occur at a port. Accordingly, in the further analysis of candidate links, when a doubly contested link vies for the same port as a singly contested link, the doubly contested link is presumed incorrect and discarded. In the ~~FIGURE 7~~ FIGURE 8 example, doubly contested link L2 would be discarded in favor of retaining links L1 and L3.